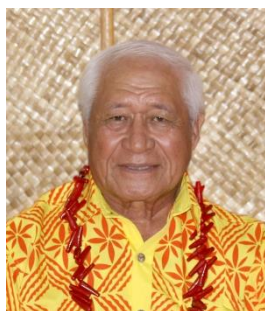**MINISTRY OF WOMEN, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

SAMOA NATIONAL CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION POLICY

2020 - 2030

Foreword

"O fanau o le lumana'i o Samoa mo a taeao!

O āu o matua fanau!
O fanau o le tofi mai le Atua !"

It is my pleasure to present this National Child Care and Protection Policy for Samoa.

Children are blessings and gifts from God and we have a duty for their survival and development; to protect them from harm. They are the future leaders, matai, custodians, church ministers, mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, managers, accountants, lawyers, teachers, doctors, nurses, engineers, practitioners, technicians, environmentalists, artists, performers, and representatives of Samoa.

This policy and supporting documents recognises our collective responsibility as a nation to better protect our children. Unfortunately our children are suffering from a wide range of abuse and neglect, sadly some are committed by their own families and communities. Child neglect, abuse, exploitation and vending are grave realities in Samoa at present with an alarming number of sexual abuses against children. Our response through this Child Care and Protection Policy and Action Plan includes policy directions, legislative measures, services and programs that address child care and protection. These have been developed after an in-depth analysis of our current situation and how we can improve and build on our cultural values and practices to care and protect for our children.

This National document guides the work across all sectors to care and protect for our children. It sets the strategic direction in terms of the high-level outcome, strategies and actions for the development of a child care and protection system for Samoa. The direction of Samoa's new Child Care and Protection system is based on strengthening the community and family structure and is embedded in *FaaSamoa* values and cultural practices that are in the best interest of the child.

This is achieved through a system that supports communities and families to care and protect their own children, which includes the emphasis on families, community and religious leaders acting to prevent neglect, abuse and exploitation; early intervention by family, community and religious leaders to ensure a situation is improved, and lastly family, community and religious leaders responding to situations when required to. The Government of Samoa stands ready to bring together all the organisations and agencies to ensure every child in Samoa is safe and receives proper care and protection.

This work has been finalized and approved by the National Policy Coordination Committee in May 2020.

Hon. Tuitama Dr Talalelei Tuitama

Minister for Women, Community and Social Development

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❊ **Preamble**

Children are the future of Samoa, they need proper care, nurture, education and protection, which is the responsibility of everyone – families, communities and government working together. Childhood is a period of innocence, immaturity and vulnerability during which a child requires special attention, care and protection.

The Policy Goal is **"To create an environment where children are safe and protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence, and have equitable access to services to support their reintegration and recovery when needed"**

For the purpose of this policy, a child is defined as "any person below the age of eighteen (18) years old".

Studies and research carried out in Samoa over the last 10 years on the situation of children outline a wide range of abuses, including; sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect and harmful practices such as corporal punishment accepted as normal discipline. In addition children are more vulnerable in times of natural disasters and emergencies.

The threat from increased information communications technology (ICT) and the widespread access to the internet in Samoa is new to this sector but is identified as a developing issue for child protection through online bullying, illicit content and the potential for further harm through adults grooming children, fraud, child pornography.

Although progress has been made through the Family Safety Act 2013, and the Youth Family Court Act to strengthen child protection systems in Samoa, there remain gaps in relation to legislation, policy, regulations and guidelines and mainstreaming of child care and protection across all sectors including strong organisational structures for coordination and oversight.

This National Child Care and Protection Policy sets a strategic and high level direction for child protection and strengthening the family and community structures that are already in place to care and protect for children in Samoa. Its development has been informed by the Child Protection Baseline Study (2013) and research since then. These studies conclude strongly that the system that will work in Samoa builds on the structures already in place in *FaaSamoa* and embedded in the culture and way of life in Samoa. Building on the positive community and village structures but also challenging cultural practices that are harmful to children.

The task of developing and implementing and monitoring the Child Care and Protection system is therefore not only for the Government, it requires engagement and commitment from all sectors, multiple stakeholders and partners at all levels, from national, district, village, church and family leaders, working collaboratively towards the shared goal**.**

�֎ **Policy Linkage**

Global	Regional	National

The17 SDGs impact every aspect of a child's well-being.
 	
Overarching of a child's well-being (UNICEF):
 	
Every child survives and thrives
 	
Every child learns
 	
Every child is protected from violence and exploitation
 	
Every child lives in a safe and clean environment
 	
Every child has a fair chance in life.
 	
SAMOAPathway
 	
Eliminate all forms of discrimination
 	
End all forms of violence
 	
Enhance social protection and inclusion.
 	
Adequate care for victims of sex trafficking and forced labour.
 	
Conventions, covenants and protocols
 	
UN Convention on the CRC.
 	
International Convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearances,
 	
International Covenant on civil and political rights.
 	
ILO Convention concerning minimum age for admission to employment.
 	
ILO Convention concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
	132 Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Indicators
	• The132 SDGs indicators for the Pacific impact every aspect of a child's well-being.
	
	Pacific island forum leader declarations
	• E.g.Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, 2012 and Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Rights, 2018–2030.
	
	Regional policies and programs
	Relevant policies and programs provided by regional inter-governmental organisations and partners.
		SDS 2016-20: *Improved quality of life for all*
		• *Community development enhanced.*
		  - Inclusion of vulnerable groups (women, children, etc) in community planning and governance activities.
		  - Implementation of the CRC.
		• *Community safety improved*
		  - Programs and activities to control offending and re-offending.
		  - Increasing level of public awareness of legal services and their rights in law.
		  - Harmonisation of the customary and formal justice systems.
		Community Development Sector Plan 2016-21: Community leading inclusive development for quality of life for all
		• Improved social outcomes for the most vulnerable in our community.
		  - Strengthened individual, family and village safety and well-being from all forms of abuse.
		  - Exploring and hands on provision of social and economic opportunities supporting vulnerable children and families in response to the growing number of child vendors.
		National Policy for Children, 2010-15
		• Advancement of children's rights.
		• Improved children's access to services
		Protection against abuse, exploitation and violence.

1. Introduction

Strengthening efforts to care and protect Samoa's children is in line with the Samoa Development Strategy, under the key area of Social Sector.

Children are the future of a country; they need proper care, nurture, education and protection, which is the responsibility of everyone–families, communities and government working together. Childhood is a period of innocence, immaturity and vulnerability during which a child requires special attention, care and protection.

This policy, its action plan and other supporting documents forms the initial package for planning, implementation and monitoring Child Care and Protection system for Samoa. All documents were developed following wider consultations and a review of the existing literature on child care and protection.

1.1. Purpose

This Child Care and Protection policy sets out how the government and its partners and the community will work together on child care and protection. It is aimed at preventing and addressing current and emerging issues and challenges concerning the care and protection of children in Samoa.

1.2. Guiding Principles

1.2.1. **Basic rights** – every child is entitled to basic rights to life, survival and development.

1.2.2. **Best interests of the child** – in all matter affecting the care and protection of a child, the safety, well-being and best interest of the child are always paramount.

1.2.3. **Non-discrimination** – every child is free from discrimination of any kind, regardless of their age, gender identity, religious, and other social and economic status.

1.2.4. **Family strengthening and family-based solutions** – every child is entitled to the care and protection of their immediate and extended family who are supported by the broader Samoa community. The Policy recognises the family as the best safety net for a child to grow up in.

1.2.5. **Community Care and Support** – Services will be designed to strengthen the capacity of community networks to deal with child care and protection issues. The response to children in need of care and protection will seek to actively engage and mobilise the child's extended family, community and church network in supporting the child and family.

1.2.6. **Collective sense of responsibility** – the Policy recognises the care, safety and protection of children is everyone's responsibility. Special emphasis will be made on partnership approaches amongst government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations, church-based organisations, private sector, families and communities.

1.2.7. **Fa'aSamoa** – principles and values of:

alofa (love)
fa'aaloalo (respect and dignity)
tautua (service and responsibility)
usita'i (obedience)
va fealoa'i or *va tapuia* (sacred relationships between people)
fetausia'i (caring for each other)
puipuiga (protection)
malu i fale (if you are not safe at home, then you are safe in other places)
malu i fanua (being protected within your community or land)
tausi fanau (caring responsibility for children)
tausi aiga (caring responsibility for the family)

tausi matua (caring responsibility for parents)
tausi nuu (caring responsibility for the village community)
soalaupule (consensus requiring consultation and participation)
*tofa fetala'i (*wisdom is knowledge sharing and shared understanding)
amiotonu (honesty–doing the right thing)
fa'asinomaga (identity–where you belong)

2.   Policy Statements

The Government of Samoa is committed to the development and implementation of the child care and protection systems to ensure the protection of children from abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence at national, district, village and family level in line with National and International obligations and through building on positive cultural practices and structures.

The seven (7) policy statements outline the direction for all work in the formalising of the child care and protection system for Samoa.

2.1.   Samoa's Child Care and Protection System will be a community based approach

2.1.1. Samoa's child protection system will be based on a community-caring approach, as this is the most beneficial and sustainable system for Samoa. The primary focus of the child and protection system is to prevent, and to intervene early with families at risk and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children with public policies, programs and services focusing on promoting and emphasising the roles and responsibilities of families and communities for child care and protection.

2.1.2. The child and protection system will foster and support the community and family to prevent poor outcomes occurring in the first place and sharing amongst the community members relevant prevention and early intervention initiatives that are cost effective in improving children safety and well being.

2.1.3. Each community actor (individuals, groups, organisations and networks) in the child care and protection system have a fundamental role to play in ensuring the safety and well-being of children. Those roles should be supported, promoted and strengthened.

2.2.   Family strengthening as the preferred way to Child Care and Protection concerns.

2.2.1. The parent(s) and family have the primary responsibility for their child's care, upbringing, protection and development.

2.2.2. Concerns about the care and protection of children will be addressed by providing support to the child's parents /caregiver to address underlying problems and strengthen their ability to appropriately care for their child, and to minimise removal of children from their families and communities.

2.2.3. The response to children in need of care and protection will seek to actively engage and mobilise the child's extended family, community and church network in supporting the child and family. This support includes the support of the church, village council, village committees, village government representatives and other community-based institutions, groups and individuals.

2.2.4. Government should only take action to protect a child that is necessary. The provision of care and protection can be provided indirectly through other means of out-of-family care offered by families, churches, communities, private sector organisations or civil society organisations.

2.3.   Collective responsibilities for child care and protection remains paramount

2.3.1. It is the collective responsibility of parents and adult members of extended families and communities (including church and village institutions) to nurture, educate and protect children as well as to ensure the health and wellbeing of children comply with national health and education set by the government.

2.3.2. The child protection system will build on the strengths, knowledge and opportunities that exist within the local community. Village councils, community leaders, churches and other informal support networks (women's groups, youth groups, FBOs and NGOs) provide an important social safety net for children and families facing difficulties and have an essential role to play in the child protection system.

2.3.3. Each ndividual, family, group, professional and organisation must be aware of their roles in child care and protection and must play their part in identifying concerns, reporting children in need of care and protection to relevant authorities, sharing information, and taking necessary prompt actions.

2.3.4. The fundamental role of government is policy, regulatory and monitoring, and facilitating an enabling environment for all actors in the system to work together on performing child care and protection responsibilities.

2.4. The best interest of the child will take precedent with consensus decision making

2.4.1. In all actions and decisions made concerning a child, the safety, welfare and well-being of the child's best interests must be the paramount consideration.

2.4.2. In deciding what course of action that is necessary to take in order to protect a child from harm, the course of action must be the least intrusive intervention in the life of the child and his / her family and is consistent with the paramount concern to protect the child from harm and promote the child's development.

2.4.3. Where appropriate, relevant family (both immediate and extended) and the child's community (e.g.village council, women's committees, youth groups, church and other bodies) should participate in decision-making through Family Group Conferencing. Care and protection orders from the court will generally be used only where agreement cannot be reached, or where a protection order from the court is necessary in the interests of the child.

2.5. Prevention is paramount

2.5.1. All forms of child abuse and neglect must be prevented. The government will work in partnership with the community, civil society and private sector actors on identifying, developing and implementing required prevention initiatives.

2.5.2. Education, implementation and monitoring is key to all individuals informed understanding about child care and protection principles and system.

2.5.3. Selling and street vending at any time of the day or night for children 15 years old or younger is not an acceptable practice. It is a reminder that care and protection of children 15 years old or younger is paramount over income generating for the family. Stopping child vending for 15 year olds and younger is a vital prevention measure for the child care and protection system.

2.6. Early intervention is addressed through supporting families and parents

2.6.1. Early interventions must be undertaken in cases where the parents and families are struggling and where a child is assessed as at risk of harm. The extended family and close community are best placed to assist the parents if they are struggling to ensure their child's safety, care, protection and well-being.

2.6.2. Relatives or other carers should have the financial and emotional capacity to care for the child.

2.6.3. Families who are experiencing difficulties and children who are at risk situations should be identified and supported to address their difficulties before problems escalate and result in harm to the child.

2.6.4. Government will work collaboratively with partners, CSOs and community to strengthen the capacity of extended family and community support networks to identify and provide early intervention support to support families with difficulties and to prevent and address risk factors associated with abuse and neglect.

2.7.   Response services are timely for children in need of care and protection

2.7.1. Assessment, responses and care must be provided in accordance with the relevant approved legislation, standards and procedures and guidelines.

2.7.2. No child is to be removed from the care of the child's family and close community unless it is absolutely necessary for the child's safety, care and protection, and upon an assessment that the child is at-risk of harm.

2.7.3. If a child does not have a parent, guardian or carer who is able to provide ongoing care, or the child cannot, for his/her own safety, be allowed to remain with his/her parents or caregiver, the government is responsible for ensuring appropriate alternative care for the child.

2.7.4. Priority will be given to strengthening family-based forms of alternative care (kinship care and foster care).

2.7.5. Residential care will be provided by CSO actors, and will only be used if alternative family-based forms of alternative care are not available or appropriate in the best interest of the child

3.   Samoa's Child Care and Protection System

This system utilises and promotes the strengths of community institutions (family, village, church, civil society, private sector) in child care and protection. Government will empower those actors through policy, regulatory and monitoring initiatives, thus creating an enabling environment for all actors to contribute and work together in performing their child care and protection responsibilities. Qualified and experienced Non-governmental actors will be involved in implementing and service delivery roles.

Figure 1 shows the child care and protection framework for Samoa that was developed based on findings from the consultations (MWCSD, 2019) and literature review.
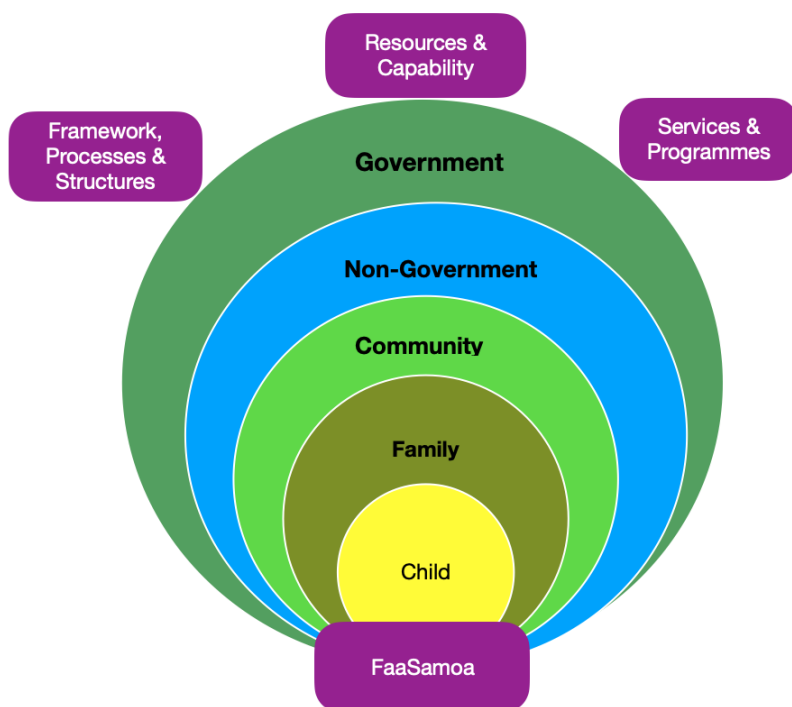

Figure 1 framework for CCP SYSTEM IN SAMOA

3.1. Child Protection System Components

The components of the child care and protection system in Samoa is embedded in the Fa'aSamoa, its values, principles, practices and responses to child care and protection.

The five circles portray all actors or key players: - the child, family, community, non-government and government actors in Samoa with roles to play in the care and protection of children. As individuals and members of the society in which they live, interact and socialise, all actors have a responsibility in preventing and addressing child care and protection issues and matters:

- *Child*– all individuals in Samoa below the age of 18.
- *Family*–immediate and extended family in Samoa or the *aiga;* everyone related by blood, marriage and *matai* titles belonging to a clan or groups of family.
- *Community* – village councils, churches, Komiti a Tina, CBOs, FBOs,
- *Non- Government Organisations -* individuals, organisations, groups and institutions in the private business and civil society that are independent and operate separately from the state.
- *Government*–individuals, SNs, STNs, SMs, organisations, groups and institutions representing the government. State actors refer to all those elected (to Parliament) and appointed to the executive government and judiciary.

3.2. Strategic Areas

All the Policy Outcome statements will include each of these areas to ensure they are covering all their component in a strategic manner.

3.2.1. Strategic Area 1

➤ *Improved Framework, Processes & Structures*

This area refers to the public policy and legislation positions providing the strategic directions on child care and protection, as well as the legislation supporting and enabling the realisation of those public policies and their implementation.

Ensuring that well-documented standard operating procedures, guidelines and tools operationalising child care and protection policies, legislation and regulations. They provide a systemic approach to the implementation and embedment of child care and protection practices in organisational settings.

Defining the roles of different actors in child care and protection is required. Clarifying policy, regulatory, monitoring and service delivery roles in child care and protection is further needed. Effective performance of those roles requires the organisation of functions and tasks corresponding to different areas of child care and protection.

3.2.2. Strategic Area 2

➤ *Resources and capability*

The identification of required human, physical and financial resources (human resources, skills, talents, expertise, budget; assets, partnership, etc.) for different individuals, groups, organisations and networks working in different areas of child care and protection is a critical element. Without adequate resourcing commitments, the policy and legislation are not implementable and not enforced. Capability also includes leadership capacity to lead, champion and advocate, as well as implementing capacity to respond effectively and efficiently.

3.2.3. Strategic Area 3

➤ *Improved Access to Prevention, Early intervention & Response services*

Programs and services that follow the continuum of Figure 2. Target groups range according to level of need (i.e. children and those responsible for child care and protection such as families, schools, churches, communities, and service providers) need to be identified and funded. Which programs/services to adopt and implement depend on the priority issues to address, as well as the purpose of a program/ service (to prevent, address, enforce, or restore), as well as the targeted beneficiaries.

4.   Policy Implementation

This policy will be implemented through a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure its vision and goal is achieved. The mechanisms outlined in this section will be used to implement, monitor, review and monitor the policy and its Action Plan.

4.1.   Mechanisms

Child Care and Protection in Samoa involves a multiple number of agencies both government and non-governmental. A national multi-sector approach to child care and protection is implemented by each agency playing an important role for creating and promoting a protective environment for children. The detailed mandates, roles and responsibilities for each sector are listed in the Policy Implementation Section of this policy.

MWCSD will support the CCP Policy and shall be responsible for the implementation of this Policy. The Policy shall be operationalised through a rolling ten-year Action Plan that will be reviewed annually and updated where appropriate.

4.2.   Governance and implementation arrangements

The National Committee for CRC, CEDAW & CRPD (NCCCC) will be appointed by Cabinet to take up management role for the implementation of this National Child Care and Protection Policy(NCCPP) and its 10-year Action Plan. The NCCCC will be chaired by a CEO of a Government Ministry, members will include umbrella bodies for NGO's, FBO, CSO and the private sector. The NCCCC will have overall responsibility for coordinating policy implementation, participatory monitoring, evaluation and reviews.

In support of the NCCCC there will be a Child Care and Protection Working Group (CCPWG) that will directly work on implementation, monitoring and review of the CCP Action Plan and each of its outcome statements. The CCPWG will be chaired by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development CEO and members will be ACEO level, including government agencies, NGO's, FBO, CSO and the private sector groups directly related to the outcome statements in the CCP policy and action plan.

The CCPWG will also serve as an advisory committee to the NCCCC on all matters to do with Child Care and Protection Policy and Legislation.

Partnership arrangements will be established with relevant government, civil society and private sector organisations on the delivery of child care and protection services and programs. The implementation of the major activities under each output requires the development of specific strategies to achieve different purposes – for prevention, response and restoration objectives in child care and protection.

FIGURE 2 GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK
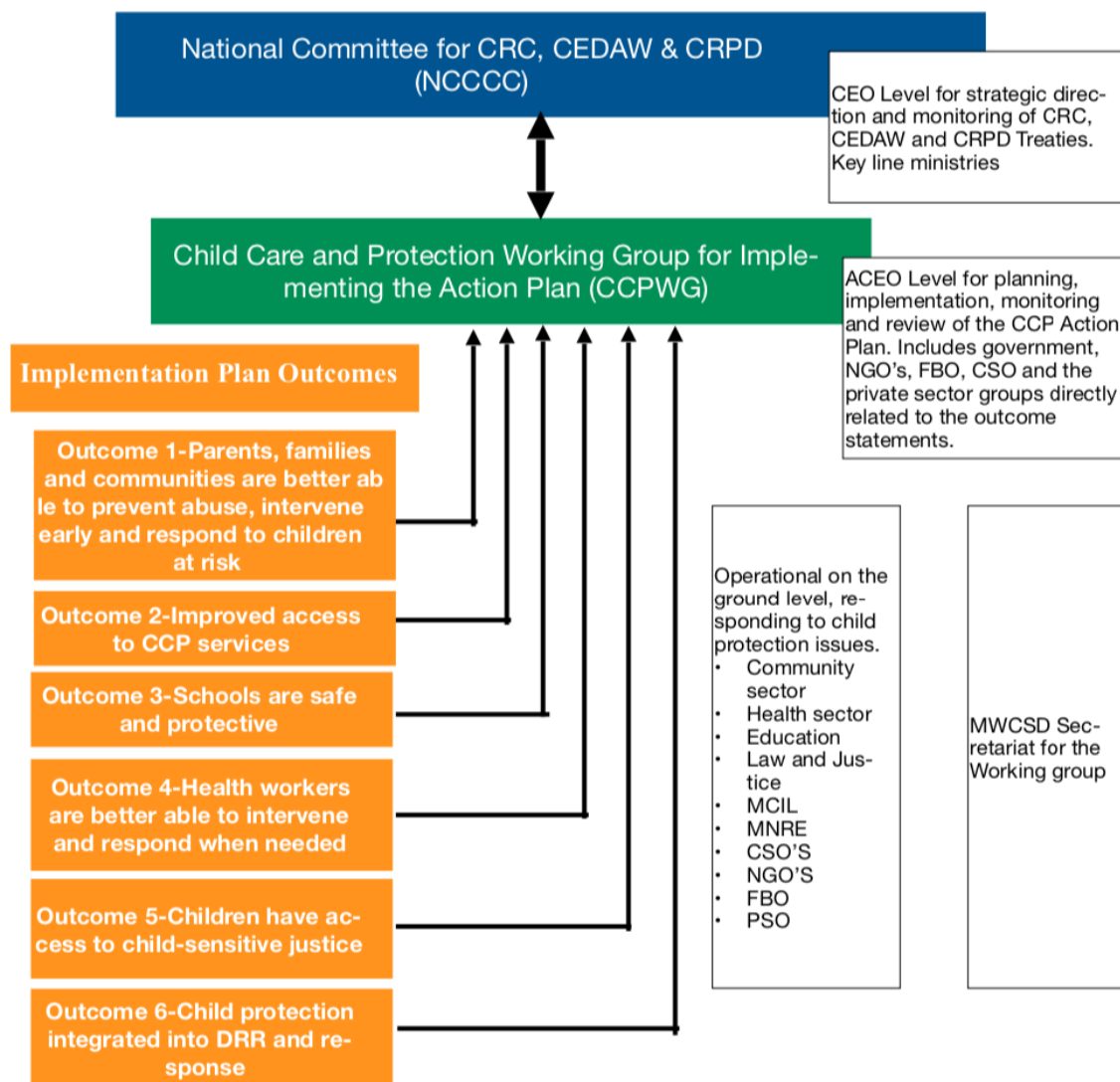
4.3. Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework of this child care and protection policy is linked closely to the action plan included in this Policy. M&E activities are subject to the government of Samoa and contributing development partners' relevant policies and guidelines on M&E.

Improvement in implementation and in the development of follow-up or subsequent action plans (beyond this current action plan) require the sharing of information on the progress of implementation and lessons learned with relevant partners, stakeholders and the community.

M&E will be included in the Government of Samoa national mechanism for monitoring and reporting, each sector and ministry will report on their own indicators and outcome statements. Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development will play a lead role in regulating and monitoring the service programmes. The NCCCC and working Group provide the coordination and technical support to the MWCSD in the performance of this role.Such support is needed for the production of reliable data and information for M&E such as for the preparation of required reports documenting implementation progress of the national action plan.

Annual work plan and budget: the annual work plan and budget will serve as the primary reference documents for the purpose of monitoring the achievement of results. The MWCSD with support of the NCCCC and Working Group are tasked with the responsibility of ensuring implementation of the child care and protection action plan in accordance with these documents. Alignment of the annual work plan and budget for

this child care and protection action plan to the MWCSD and all concerned implementing organisations' policy, planning and budgetary processes is important.

Six monthly and annual reporting: Sixth monthly and annual reporting need preparation by the MWCSD with the assistance of the Working Group and submitted to the NCCCC at its meetings. The reports should include updated information and narrative summary of results achieved against the child care and protection action plan, as well as lessons learnt and way forward.

Annual reviews: Based on the reports mentioned above, annual reviews should be conducted in the fourth quarter of the year or shortly after, to assess progress made against the child care and protection action plan and to review the annual plan for the following year. In the last year of the action plan, this review will also be a final assessment. This review is driven by the NCCCC and Working Group and should involve all key stakeholders for feedback. The review must focus on the extent to which progress is being made towards the outputs and activity result areas of the child care and protection action plan, and in alignment with the long-term outcome and indicators. Any changes to the result and resourcing framework of the child care and protection action plan based on required and available resources as well as revisions made based on lessons learnt should also be considered at these annual review meetings.

Mid-term and completion reviews/evaluation: Ongoing improvements and maintaining momentum in the implementation of the child care and protection action plan require regular independent evaluation to assess progress and to map the way forward. Child care and protection issues are complex problems to prevent and address given the difficulty in changing beliefs and attitudinal factors in Samoa's society. As such, with implementing efforts, we will never get it right in the first place, and therefore ongoing reflections through reviews and evaluations are critical for feedback and ongoing improvements.

4.4.   Roles and Responsibilities

This section outlines the key roles and responsibilities of the Key Line Ministries that contribute to the child care and protection policy and system.

4.4.1. Community Development Sector & MWCSD

• The MWCSD has primary responsibility for leading, facilitating and coordinating services and programs for children, families, and the community, as well as facilitating and monitoring the development and implementation of the child care and protection system. This includes the following key responsibilities by its different divisions.

• MWCSD and Community Development Sector responsibilities will include but are not limited to the following:

4.4.1.1.

➤ **Social Development Division ("authorised officers")**

• Design and implement appropriate strategies and programs, together with relevant partners, for early intervention with families and children who are vulnerable or at risk.

• Receive reports of children suspected of being in need of care or protection and lead case management process.

• Promote the safety, welfare health and well-being of children in collaboration with inter-agency partners and community support networks.

• Facilitate collaboration across services and with inter-agency partners to support and strengthen families and promote child safety, health, welfare and wellbeing.

• Facilitate and collaborate in joint investigation and response to cases involving violence against children leading to criminal proceedings.

• Actively provide feedback to reporters after receiving a child protection report and continue to support the child and / or family.

4.4.1.2.

➤ **Village Council and Community-based Organisations, Groups and Networks**

- Develop and enforce village by-laws, rules and other supportive mechanisms on child care and protection.
- Champion childcare and protection, promote community conversations on childcare and protection issues, encourage positive cultural practices and challenge social norms that are harmful to children.
- Intervene early to address child care and protection issues by providing in-kind support to struggling families and including parenting support, mediation of family conflicts and other support.
- Intervene to protect children who have experienced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation, ensuring an appropriate and child-centred response.
- Seek help from the Social Development Division ("authorized officer") for serious and complex cases of children in need of care and protection where the community is unable to resolve the problems.

4.4.1.3.

➤ **Church and church-based organisations, groups and networks**

- Promote awareness of child care and protection issues through existing networks.
- Empower parents and families about taking responsibilities for the safety and welfare of their children by integrating child care and protection issues into church-based programs.
- Assist the Social Development Division ("authorized officer") in identifying volunteer families from within the church networks who are willing to provide temporary care for children where extended family is unable to do so.
- Support village based and national child care and protection policies, laws, programs and services.

4.4.1.4.

➤ **Non-government organisations and private sector**

- Act as watchdogs, providing checks and balance mechanisms on the national public child care and protection system.
- Develop and implement a Child Safeguarding Policy outlining their organisation's commitment to keeping children safe and the measures the organisation will take to ensure the safety of children who use their services or otherwise come into contact with the organisation and its staff.
- Provide relevant rehabilitation, diversion and reintegration services and programs (counselling, mentoring, coaching, training, etc.)
- Promote awareness of child care and protection issues through existing networks.

4.4.2. Education Sector

- Develop and implement a child protection policy / strategy and procedures for all schools.
- Early identification of children who are experiencing family problems or who are at risk of harm and work with them and their families and community leaders in resolving those issues / problems.
- Strengthen school-based counselling services.
- Report children in need of care and protection to the Social Development Division ("authorized officer") in accordance with inter-agency response procedures for child care and protection and take necessary steps for dealing with those cases.

4.4.3. Health Sector

- Identify children showing early signs of abuse or neglect and provide advice and guidance to parents and families to improve parenting practices and address underlying problems.

- Report serious cases of child abuse and neglect to the police and to the Social Development Division ("authorized officer") in accordance with inter-agency response procedures and take necessary steps for dealing with those cases.

- Maintain data on suspected child abuse and neglect cases, integrate child care and protection cases into the health information management system and share relevant information with other inter-agency officers working on **children issues.**

4.4.4. Law and Justice Sector

- Integrate discussion of child safety and protection issues into community policing and other community crime prevention activities.

- Promote community resolution of minor offences committed by children and immediate family conflicts.

- Ensure there are designated and trained workers to deal with children cases in the police, prosecution, court and other supportive areas of the justice system.

- Report all serious cases of abuse or exploitation of children to the Social Development Division ("authorized officer") in accordance with inter-agency response procedures and collaborate with the child protection officer / authorised officer in the response.

- Ensure effective collection of disaggregated data on cases involving children in the justice system (as offenders, victims and care and protection proceedings).

4.4.5. Environmental Sector and National Disaster Management

- Identify child protection risks that emergencies pose to children and integrate child protection issues and matters into emergency and disaster preparedness and management.

- Incorporate discussions of child protection matters in emergency and disaster management matters.

- Ensure that emergency responses include measures to assess and respond to child protection issues.

- Create safe community spaces for children and ensure that evacuation centres are child-safe.

4.4.6. Trade, Commerce and Manufacturing Sector

- Prevent, eliminate and address all forms of child labour in Samoa through relevant policy, regulatory and programming initiatives.

- Monitor child trafficking through bilateral and multi-lateral arrangements.

- Regulate, monitor and evaluate child labour in Samoa–both in the formal and informal business and employment sectors.

- Ensure effective collection of disaggregated data on issues and concerning child care and protection in the trade, commerce and manufacturing sector.

4.4.7. Other Sectors/ Government Agencies

- Incorporate child protection issues, as relevant, into sector policy, regulatory and program initiatives such as national budgeting and planning, energy, transport , information technology and infrastructure.

- Consider the safety and well-being of children and their families in design and implementation of all programmes and activities

- Ensure compliance with national child labour laws and policies.

- Develop child safeguarding policies and employee child protection codes of conduct.

- Information Technology is a growing concern within the child protection area with the increased ease of sharing information such as photos and videos through the Internet.

5. Implementation Plan

Vision:Every child in Samoa is safe and receives proper care and protection

Mission: A safe and secure society where children of, or living in Samoa are free from all forms of abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence enabling them to enjoy a fulfilling childhood and productive life regardless of their gender, religion, age, ethnicity, disability, health status and cultural background

Goal: To create an environment where children are safe and protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence, and have equitable access to services to support their reintegration and recovery when needed.

Outcome statements:

Outcome 1: Parents, families, and communities are better able to Prevent abuse, Intervene early and respond to children at risk in Samoa

Outcome 2: Children in need of protection and their families have improved access to child care and protection services

Outcome 3: Schools are safe and protective and respond appropriately to child protection issues.

Outcome 4: Health workers are better able to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children

Outcome 5: Children have access to child-sensitive justice

Outcome 6: Child protection integrated into disaster risk management and response

Results	Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
Outcome 1: Parents, families, and communities are better able to Prevent abuse, Intervene early and respond to children at risk in Samoa			
1.1 Legal framework for child care and protection services in place	Finalise Child Care and Protection Bill	MWCSD	2021
	Review and revise laws and regulations relating to adoption	MJCA, AGO, SLRC, SLS, SBS, MWCSD	2021-2030
1.2 Enhanced legal protection for children from all forms of violence	Review existing laws relating to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation to identify gaps.	MJCA, AGO, SLRC, SLS, SBS, NHRI, MWCSD, MESC, MCIL, MOH, MOP, SPCS, Relevant NGOs.	2021-2030
	Prioritise gaps and propose required amendments to laws and regulations	MJCA, AGO, SLRC, SLS, SBS, NHRI, MWCSD, MESC, MCIL, MOH, MOP, SPCS, Relevant NGOs,	2021-2030

Results	Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
	Develop a MWCSD Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct and advocate for organisations working with children (government agencies, NGOs and private sector) to develop their own policies compliant with the MWCSD Policy and Strategy	MWCSD,	2021-2030
1.3 Enhanced targeted prevention aimed at strengthening child protective behaviours in the family, school, churches and communities	Develop a national communication strategy on child protection, with an emphasis on promoting positive cultural practices, positive parenting and addressing norms underlying violence against children through existing church and CSO networks.	MWCSD	2021-2022
	Review and update current community facilitation materials on CP, using regional faith-based materials compiled by the Pacific Council of Churches.	MWCSD	2021-2022
	Develop and deliver a 'train for trainer' programs for key civil society organisations (including church ministers and village committee members, SNs and STNs) and professionals in order for them to deliver facilitation package.	MWCSD, SN & STN	2021-2022
	Implement the facilitation package through existing village and church networks	MWCSD, NCC,	2030
	Integrate discussion of child safety and protection issues into community policing and other community crime prevention activities (need for discussion between CEU(MOP) and CP(MWCSD) on child abuse issues and CP messages to ensure information is consistent across all areas/actors)	MWCSD, MOP	2021-2022
	Develop and implement programmes to build awareness of children, parents and community on online child abuse and digital safety [discussions between CP (MWCSD), OOTR and MCIT to ensure message consistency and primary prevention of online abuse of children.]	MWCSD, MCIT, OOTR, Private/Corporate owned (Digicel, BlueSky)	2021-2022

Results	Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
1.4 Strengthened community capacity and increased resources for prevention and early intervention and responding to child protection issues	Review job descriptions, selection criteria and reporting forms for STNs and SNs to reflect their role in child protection.	MWCSD, STNs, SNs, DDP Committees	2021-2022
	Develop Child Protection Guidelines for Community Leaders for village councils, church leaders, STNs, SNs, etc. on how to manage with CP issues (with a focus on their role in prevention and early intervention, and reporting requirements for serious cases).	MWCSD, STNs, SNs, DDP Committees	2021
	Develop a training package and tools for STNS and SNs on the Child Protection Guidelines for Community Leaders and train select STNs and SNs.	MWCSD, TA Unicef, STNs, SNs	2021 - 2025
	STN and SNs conduct trainings on the CP Guidelines for Community Leaders with Village Councils and church leaders and support them to identify and support children and families at risk (low-risk cases will be addressed by the Village Council (includes Govt reps) utilising the tools and skills received during TOT with MWCSD, report high-risk cases to CP Unit (MWCSD)	Church Community Leaders, MWCSD, STNs, SNs, DDP Committees	2021-2030
	Strengthen village rules and by-laws on child care and protection.	MWCSD, STNs, SNs, DDP Comm	2025-2030
Outcome 2: Children in need of protection and their families have improved access to child care and protection services			
2.1 Coordinated framework and response system and standard operating procedures are in place and in full operation	Finalise the Inter-Agency Essential Service Guide and review and revise child protection case management guidelines, tools and forms.	MWCSD	2021-2022
	Develop a training package on the IESGs and deliver inter-agency training, including how to report and respond to children in need of care and protection	MWCSD, Stakeholders/Service Providers (Government, Non-Government, Private or Corporate Owned)	2021-2022
	Allocate adequate budget for travel, logistics and communication.	MWCSD	

Results	Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
	Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the coordinated response system	MWCSD - CPU	
2.2 Strengthened capacity and resources of Child Protection Officers and other "authorised officers" to manage child protection cases	Review and update job descriptions and core competencies for Child Protection Officers	MWCSD - ACEO DSD	2021
	Develop criteria and procedures for appointment of "authorised officers"	MWCSD	2021
	In-depth, in-service training for Child Protection Officers and other authorised officers	MWCSD, UNICEF Regional Specialist, NGOs (authorised officers)	2021-2022
	Issue guidance on delegation of authority to Child Protection Officers and authorised officers, including lines of reporting, accountability and supervision (according to CP Bill all powers lie with CEO – MWCSD and she has the power to delegate authority to designated CPO and authorised officers).	CEO-MWCSD	2021-2022
	Gradual increase in the number of Child Protection Officer positions within the CPU.	CEO –MWCSD, PSC	2021-2022
2.3 Improved planning, co-ordination and quality control of child protection services	Map available services and develop service directories at the national and sub-national levels.	MWCSD, Service Providers	2021-2022
	More structured and strategic partnerships with NGO and FBO service providers through MOUs or agency agreements.	MWCSD, relevant NGOS, NCC, FBOs	2021-2022
	Develop minimum standards for child care and protection services (including standards for counsellor, kinship/foster carers and residential homes for children)	MWCSD,	2021-2022
	Establish mechanisms for inspection, registration, and regular oversight and quality control of child protection service providers.	MWCSD	2021-2022
	Developing a child protection management information system.	MWCSD	

Results	Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
	Identify and conduct required research that are needed in order to strengthen the evidence-based analyses and foundation of the child care and protection system	MWCSD,	
2.4 Improved range and quality of alternative care	Map available services and develop service directories at the national and sub-national levels.	MWCSD, Service Providers	2021-2022
	More structured and strategic partnerships with NGO and FBO service providers through MOUs or agency agreements.	MWCSD, relevant NGOS, NCC, FBOs	2021-2022
	Develop minimum standards for child care and protection services (including standards for counsellor, kinship/foster carers and residential homes for children)	MWCSD,	2021-2022
	Establish mechanisms for inspection, registration, and regular oversight and quality control of child protection service providers.	MWCSD	2021-2022
Outcome 3: Schools are safe and protective and respond appropriately to child protection issues.			
3.1 Child protection is recognised as a priority issue and integrated into the Legal and policy framework including processes and structures for all of the education sector planning and budgeting	Integrate child protection into the Ministry annual plans and budgets, and the education sector strategic plan.	MWCSD, MESC, NUS	2021-2025
	Review and update National Child Safe School Policy, including a Child Protection Code of Conduct for the education sector	MWCSD, MESC, TA Unicef, NUS	2021-2025
	Develop and detailed plan to implement the Strategy.	MWCSD, MESC, TA Unicef	2021-2025
	Implement accessible and child-friendly complaints mechanism in all schools and clear procedures for disciplining staff who abuse children	MWCSD, MESC, School Committees, NUS	2021-2025
3.2 In support of the education sector child protection policy and procedures resources are made available for all appropriate staff to be	Develop guidance for teachers on positive discipline, child-friendly class management and teaching techniques.	MWCSD, MESC, National Univeristy of Samoa,	2021-2025

Results	Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
up-skilled and capacity of the education sector is increased to deliver its child protection goals.	Incorporate child protection into pre-service and in-service training for teachers, including training on positive classroom management techniques, identifying signs of abuse and how to respond to cases of children in need of care and protection.	MWCSD, MESC, NUS, SQA.	2021-2030 (ongo-ing)
	Child protection indicators integrated into education sector management information system	MWCSD, MESC	2021-2025
3.3 Prevention and early intervention services (such as awareness and anti bully-ing activities, risk assess-ments) are incorporated into the school curriculum and PTA activities.	Child protection prevention and early in-tervention programmes and services are run by the schools and education institutes	MWCSD, MESC	2021-2025
	Review curriculum and strengthen age-appropriate discussion of child protection issues into the curriculum, including social behaviour and citizenship, respectful rela-tionships, conflict resolution, reproductive health, alcohol awareness, gender roles and norms, online safety, and educating children on how to protect themselves and how to seek help.	MWCSD, MESC, MCIT, MOP, MJCA, SFHA, MOH, SQA, relevant NGOs	2021-2025
	Design and incorporate a specialist course at FOE (NUS) to train new teachers re-garding revised curriculum/ provide in-service ongoing learning for current teach-ers/ workshops for Principals and Deputy Principals.	MWCSD, MESC, MCIT, MOP, MJCA, SFHA, SQA, MOH, NUS (FOE),relevant NGOs	2022-2030 (ongo-ing)
	Develop a facilitator package and IEC materials guide discussion of child protec-tion, positive parenting and other parenting issues in PTA meetings	MESC, MWCSD	2021-2030
	Child protection indicators integrated into education sector management information system	MWCSD, MESC	2021-2025
	Anti-bullying programmes and peer con-flict resolution are adopted by all schools and education institutes	MOP, MJCA, SPCS, MESC, relevant NGOs	2021-2025

Results	Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
3.4 Response Services are made available and well resourced and staffed, such as school-based anti-bullying and counselling services.	Anti-bullying policies and procedures in place in every school and education institution including how to respond to incidences including; counselling for the survivor/ victim and consequences for the perpetrator.	MOP, MJCA, SPCS, MESC, relevant NGOs	2021-2025
	Designate and train select teachers as school counsellors	MESC, NUS, SQA, APTC	2021-2025
Outcome 4: Health workers are better able to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children			
4.1 Child abuse and neglect is recognised as a priority health issue and integrated **into the Legal and policy framework including processes and structures for all of the health sector planning and budgeting**	Integrate child protection into the Ministry annual plans and budgets, and health sector strategic plans.	MOH, MWCSD, Health Sector Partners?	2021 – 2030 (ongoing)
	Develop clinical guidelines for health workers on child abuse and neglect, including reporting and referral obligations, for prevention, early intervention and response services.	MOH, MWCSD, SFHA, MOP, MJCA, relevant NGOs	2021 – 2025
4.2 In support of the health sector child protection policy and procedures resources are made available for all appropriate staff to be up-skilled and capacity of the health sector is increased to deliver its child protection goals.	Pre-service and in-service training for health workers on signs of abuse and how to respond to cases of children in need of care and protection	MOH, SFHA, relevant NGOs,	2021 – 2030 (ongoing)
	Integrate child protection indicators into health management information system	MOH, Health sector partners	2021 – 2030 (ongoing)
4.3 Child protection prevention and early intervention goals and activities are integrated into material and child health programmes	Develop child protection / positive parenting materials that health workers can use when interacting with parents as part of maternal and child health and community health outreach programmes.	MOH, SFHA, MWCSD, relevant NGOs,	2021 - 2025
4.4 Improved capacity for health workers to identify and respond to children in need of protection following the procedures and processes already in place.	Develop clinical guidelines for health workers on child abuse and neglect, including reporting and referral obligations in relation to response to a suspected case of abuse or neglect.	MOH, MWCSD, SFHA, MOP, MJCA, relevant NGOs	2021 – 2025

Results	Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
Outcome 5: Children have access to child-sensitive justice			
5.1 Child protection is recognised as a priority issue and integrated into the Legal and policy framework including processes and structures for all of the Law and Justice sector planning and budgeting, priortising justice for and appropriate procedures for anyone under the age of 18	Integrate justice for children into the Law & Justice sector strategic plan and Ministry annual plans and budgets.	MIJCA, MOP, AG	2021- 2030
	Develop guidelines for Police and Prosecutor workers on child abuse and neglect, including reporting and referral obligations, for prevention, early intervention and response services.	MIJCA, MOP, AG	2021- 2030
5.2 In support of the Law and Justice sector child protection policy and procedures resources are made available for all appropriate staff to be up-skilled and capacity of the sector is increased to deliver its child protection goals	Integrate child justice into pre-service and in-service training for police, prosecutors, lawyers, and magistrates/ judges	MJCA, MOP, SPCS, AG	2021- 2025
	Integrate child protection indicators into Law and Justice management information system	MIJCA, MOP, AG	2021 – 2030
5.3 Greater Law and Justice sector specialisation in handling children's cases	Designate specialist police officers and prosecutors to deal with children's cases	MOP, MJCA, AG	2021 – 2030
	Review Police SOPs on handling children's cases	MOP, MJCA, SPCS, AG	2021 – 2030
	Review guidelines for prosecutors on handling children's cases	MJCA, MOP, SPCS, AG	2021 – 2025
	Improve collection and disaggregation of data on cases involving children by police and courts.	MOP, MJCA, SPCS, AG	2021 – 2030
5.4 Improved prevention and early intervention services and response services for children in conflict with the law/ youth offenders in all areas of the Sector.	Child-sensitive interview rooms at police stations	MOP, AG, MJCA	2021 – 2030
	Improve provision of screens to all courts, and gradual expansion of audio-video equipment to facilitate remote testimony of children.	MJCA, MOP, AG	2021 – 2030
	Introduce Victim/Witness Support Service (for pre-trial familiarisation and court accompaniment) in collaboration with CSOs.	MJCA, AG, MOP	2021 – 2030

Results	Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
	Strengthen programmes for supervision, rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law	MWCSD, MJCA, SPCS, relevant NGOs	2021 – 2025
Outcome 6: Child protection integrated into disaster risk management and response			
6.1 Child protection is recognised as a priority issue and integrated into the Legal and policy framework including processes and structures for the Disaster preparedness planning and budgeting	Integrate discussion of child protection risks into emergency planning and awareness with communities	MNRE(DMO), MWCSD, AG, relevant NGOs	2021 – 2030
6.2 In support of the Disaster preparedness and procedures and planning resources are made available for all appropriate staff to be up-skilled and capacity of the sector is increased to deliver its child protection goals	Integrate discussion of child protection risks into emergency planning and awareness with communities	MNRE(DMO), MWCSD, AG, relevant NGOs	2021 – 2030
	Expand and strengthen education for children on CPiE risks and how to avoid them as part of schools-based disaster preparedness	MESC, MNRE (DMO), MWCSD, AG, SQA,	2021 – 2030
	Training for CPOs and other stakeholders on CPiE	MWCSD, MNRE (DMO), MOH, MOP, MESC, relevant stakeholders	2021 – 2030
	Training on CPiE for disaster risk management officers	MNRE(DMO), MWCSD, AG, relevant NGOs	2021 – 2030
6.3 Access to appropriate child protection prevention, early intervention and response services are included in the Disaster risk reduction and preparedness plans at all levels.	Develop tools for family tracing and reunification, and reporting and responding to child protection issues in emergency context	MNRE (DMO), MWCSD, AG, MESC, MOH, MOP, relevant NGOs,	2021 – 2030
	Stand-by agreements with CSOs to mobilise volunteers on PSS and child-friendly spaces	MWCSD, MOH, MNRE (DMO), MOP, MESC, TA Unicef, stakeholders	2021-2025

6.   Appendices

6.1. Acronyms

ACEO	Assistant Chief Executive Officer
AGO	Attorney General's Office
APTC	Australia Pacific Technical College
CBO	Community-based Organisation
CCP	Child Care and Protection
CCPWG	Child Care and Protection Working Group
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CPiE	Child Protection in Emergency
CPIS	Child Protection Information System
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRCP	Convention on the Rights of the Child Partnership
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil society organisation
DDP	District Development Planning
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
DMO	Disaster Management Office
FBO	Faith-Based Organisation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCIL	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour
MCIT	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
MESC	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture
MFAT NZ	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Zealand)
MJCA	Ministry of Justice and Court Administration
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOP	Ministry of Police
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MWCSD	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
NCC	National Council of Churches
NCCPP	National Child Care and Protection Policy
NCCCC	National Committee for CRC, CEDAW & CRPD
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NIACCCP	National Inter-Agency Committee on Child Care and Protection
NOLA	Nuanua o le Alofa
NZ	New Zealand
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OOTR	Office of the Regulator
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PSO	Private Sector Organisation
PSC	Public Service Commission
SBS	Samoa Bureau of Statistics

SDS	Strategy for the Development of Samoa
SFHA	Samoa Family Health Association
SLS	Samoa Law Society
SN	Sui o Nuu
SPCS	Samoa Prisons and Corrections Services
SQA	Samoa Qualifications Authority
STN	Sui Tamaitai o Nuu
SUNGO	Samoa Umbrella of NGOs
SVSG	Samoa Victim Support Group
TA	Technical Assistant
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WHO	World Health Organisation

6.2. Definitions

Alternative Care
Refers to alternative arrangements for the care of a child who is orphaned, abandoned or without parental care, or who must, for their safety and best, be removed from their parent or caregiver. Forms of alternative care include kinship care (care by a relative), foster care (care by an approved, non-relative family) and residential care (placement in a shelter or children's home).

Child
An individual under the age of 18 years.

Child abuse
Child abuse is an act of omission or commission that endangers the physical or emotional development or well-being of a child. It can be a single act but more often takes place over time. Child abuse includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and exploitation,

Child care and protection
Refers to all policies, laws, services, programs and other initiatives designed to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, abuse neglect and exploitation of children,

Child in need of care and protection
A child is in need of care or protection if:
a) the child has been orphaned or abandoned and appropriate arrangements have not been made for his or her care;
b) the child's parents are unwilling or unable to care for the child;
c) the child has been displaced, traumatised or separated from his or her family as a result of an emergency, natural disaster or conflict;
d) the physical development or health of the child has been, or is likely to be, significantly harmed and the child's parents have not provided or allowed the provision of medical, surgical or other remedial care;
e) the child is being, or is likely to be, harmed due to physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or hazardous or exploitive labour.

Civil society organization
Civil society organisations include "non-market and non-state organisations outside of the family in which people organize themselves to pursue shared interests in the public domain"(OECD).They include *community-based oganisations* (CBOs), *non-government organisations* (NGOs) as well as *faith-based organisations* (FBOs) or church-based organisations.

NGO's
NGOs are organisations involved in development activities predominately at the national level. NGOs in Samoa are registered as Incorporated Societies or Charitable Trusts under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Emotional abuse
Means a single act or omission or series of acts causing or likely to cause mental, emotional suffering including patterns of belittling, denigrating, threatening, scaring, ridiculing, or other non-physical forms of degrading or rejecting treatment. This includes cursing, making a child feel unloved, unworthy or inadequate or frightening blaming, ridiculing, humiliating a child, discrimination, exclusion of particular children, unrealistic expectation of a child, threatening or corrupting a child.

Family / domestic violence
Domestic violence, or intimate partner violence involves violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour carried out by an adult against a partner or former partner to control and dominate that person. Domestic violence causes fear, physical and/or psychological harm. It is most often violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour by a man against a woman. Living with domestic violence has a profound effect upon children and young people and may constitute a form of child abuse.

Foster Care	Refers to placement of a child in the care of an approved family that is not related to the child, including members of the child's church or village community.
Kinshipcare	refers to care provided by immediate family members or extended family members (or aiga). Aiga refers to everyone related by blood, marriage and matai titles belonging to a clan or groups of family..
Hazardous or exploitative child labour	means any work that is inappropriate for the child's age, that is hazardous to the child's physical or mental health and that interferes with the child's education and moral development. This includes any work that is defined as hazardous work or hazardous occupation under the Samoan law. Examples are: selling goods close to places like bars, hotels, cinemas, wharf during nights (school nights at late hours)
Inter-agency system	refers to the process of agencies joining and working together for the purpose of interdependent intervention, response, and solving of issues and matters concerning child care and abuse, especially for children who are at risk of harm.
Neglect	means failure by parent/caregiver to provide for the child's basic physical, intellectual, emotional or social needs, including any special needs in relation to disability, such that it is likely to cause harm to the child's development. Examples include inability to respond emotionally to the child, child abandonment, depriving or withholding physical contact, failure to provide psychological nurturing, and treating one child differently to the others.
Physical abuse	means any act of violence or maltreatment that results in physical wounds or bodily injury to the child. There may be a single incident or repeated incidents. Examples are: kicking, punching, shoving, shaking, throwing, strapping, slapping causing injury, pinching leaving bruises, or choosing not to assist a child when a situation is causing them physical pain.
Sexual abuse	Means engaging in sexual activity with a child who has not reached the legal age of consent or that is in violation of the laws of Samoa. This includes engaging in sexual activities with a child under the age of 16 (the legal age for consent) , or where use is made of coercion, force or threats where a person abuses his/her position of trust/authority or influence over the child. Or where a person takes advantage of a particularly vulnerable situation of a child such as mental/physical disability or dependence. Child sexual abuse can take the form of contact acts such as kissing, touching a child in a sexual manner (fondling or masturbation), penetration of the vagina or anus either by fingers, penis or any other object or including a child to perform these acts on themselves or anyone else. Non-contact act of sexual abuse can include sexual harassment or unwanted sexual comments, flashing, exposure to pornography, having the child pose or perform in a sexual manner, grooming and communication of graphic sexual matters using technology including but not limited to instant messenger, SMS and emails.
Sexual Exploitation	means engaging a child in a sexual activity in exchange for cash, gifts, favours or any other forms of payment, as well as the involvement of a child in production of child pornography.
Temporary care	refers to the temporary placement of a child with other persons other than his/her parents, immediate family, extended family or close community, while the needs of the child is being assessed, and with the intention that the child will be reunited with his/her parents and family.

6.3.

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